

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 27-31, 33-34, 36, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Bernklau further in view of Koike.

Claim 27 distinguishes at least by reciting a plurality of separate monitoring units where each monitoring unit detects a respective error state at a respective time point, the detected error states and the respective time points are transmitted to a coordination module, the received error states and the respective time points are stored where they are combined to form a temporally successive error state pattern comprising the error states and the respective time points, and then for the evaluation the coordination module compares the stored temporally successive error state pattern comprising the error states and the respective time points caused by the single cause of error with predetermined error state patterns where each of those predetermined error state patterns defines a temporal sequence of error states of a predetermined single error type. The new language added to claim 27 relative to the stored temporally successive error state pattern comprising the error states and the respective time points is fully supported by Applicants' Figure 2 showing the pattern with the respective time points T1 through T5 and the corresponding portions of Applicants' specification describing Figure 2 and the time points as being part of the pattern which is being compared to the predetermined error state pattern defining a temporal sequence of error states.

First it is noted the Examiner agrees at page 4, last paragraph of the Office Action that Bernklau does not teach a plurality of separate monitoring units with each detecting a respective error state. In this regard it is further noted that Bernklau also does not teach each monitoring unit detecting a respective error state and a respective time point. Although the Examiner cites Koike for detectors, there is no

teaching in the combination of Koike with Bernklau of storing not only the error states but also the respective time points.

Even more importantly, however, Bernklau, although teaching finding a solution to an error, nowhere teaches that the error pattern being compared comprises not only temporally successive errors states but also the respective time points so this error state pattern being compared is not only a sequence of error states but also the respective time points. By not only comparing the error states but also the respective time points, the time between the time points can be compared to the predetermined error state patterns each defining a temporal sequence. This is a significant advantage in determining the at least one error type.

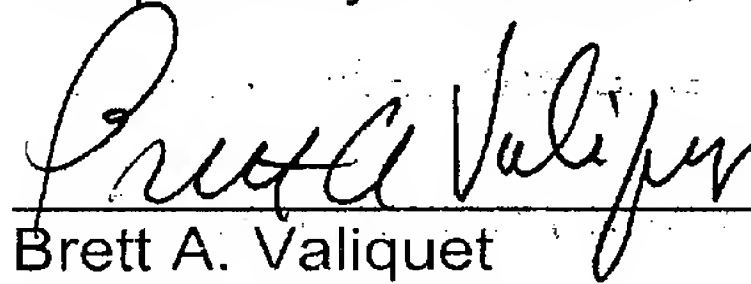
Dependent claims 28-37 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 27 and also by reciting additional features not suggested.

Device claim 38 distinguishes in a manner similar to claim 27.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,



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